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24 August 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 24 August 1960

PRESENT: Mr. Allen, Mr. Dulles, Mr. Gray, Mr. Harr,
Mr. Irwin, Mr. McCone, Mr. Merchant, Mr. Smith

1. International Atomic Energy Agency

Mr. McCone mentioned that the annual meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency is scheduled to be held in Vienna, beginning the 20th of September. This led to a general discussion of the appointment of Mr. Molotov as the Soviet representative to the Agency. Mr. Merchant reminded the Board that the USSR had tried in the past to obtain agreement from several countries for the assignment of Molotov as ambassador but without success. He speculated that since the Vienna post would not require an agreement this no doubt represented a way out for the Soviets.

2. Meeting on High Energy Physics

Mr. McCone then said that an international meeting on high energy physics will be convened in Rochester toward the end of August and that, to the surprise of virtually everyone concerned, Sterling Cole, Chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has designated Dr. Oppenheimer as that agency's representative to the meeting.

3. Soviet Broadcasting

Mr. Allen mentioned the fact that recently the Soviet internal radio service has carried practically no mention of China. This is in contrast to the rather full coverage of events in China which Soviet services have been carrying. The DCI told the Board that he had made this same point at the NSC briefing last week.

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4. Communications Satellites

Following up the discussion of last week as to the advisability of having Secretary Brucker broadcast a message which would be relayed from the COURIER satellite, Mr. Gray said that he had discussed the matter with Secretary Gates. He said that Mr. Godel had told him before the Gates meeting that the Working Group on Outer Space, and officials of the VOA, had agreed that Mr. Brucker's voice should be used. Mr. Irwin said he would follow this up.

With respect to Project ADVENT, Mr. Dulles asked why it was necessary to describe the satellite as one designed for military communications. He pointed out that this vehicle has at least as much potential for civilian use as military and said that in his opinion the former should be emphasized. Mr. Irwin agreed to see whether publicity could be handled with this in mind.

In this general connection, Mr. Irwin called attention to the fact that the satellite systems making up what was formerly Project 117 L (Discoverer, Samos and Midas) have evoked a public image of "spy in the sky." The Board agreed that it would be useful to take any possible steps to show the potentialities and accomplishments of these vehicles in another light.

5. Base on the Moon

The DCI referred to the New York Times story which he had mentioned only briefly at last week's meeting, having to do with alleged Army plans for establishing a base on the moon. Mr. Irwin said that no onus should attach to components of the Defense Department, because the briefings given to the press had been relatively innocuous, and the Times had evidently embellished the facts given, on the basis of other background material known to it.

6. Project Mercury

The Board discussed briefly whether or not we are creating an impression that a human being will be orbited in connection with Project Mercury in the near future. It was agreed that every effort should be made to put the prospects of this event into proper perspective.

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7. Soviet Space Accomplishments

Mr. Dulles commented that the Soviets are probably reaping undue propaganda advantage from their various space endeavors, because they succeed in creating an impression that they have accomplished more than they actually have done. He pointed out that the secrecy surrounding the Soviet programs is such that no hard evidence is available to outsiders, on the basis of which their claims could be proved or disproved.

He suggested, and the Board agreed, that the best way to approach this problem would be to encourage the press to raise doubts as to the authenticity of Soviet claims in those cases where they do not present adequate proof to the world, and that it would be unwise for the U.S. Government officially to disparage efforts of the USSR.

8. Nigeria Independence

Mr. Merchant reported that firm plans have now been made for U.S. participation in the ceremonies surrounding achieving of independence by Nigeria, which will be in October. He said that four to five high level citizens would be appointed U.S. delegates, two of them being nominated by the President. A special mission aircraft has been earmarked for the trip. Assistant Secretary Satterthwaite will represent the Department of State.

9. Scientific Meeting in Hawaii

The Board noted that Mr. Harold Coolidge had pointed out a problem in connection with the Tenth Pacific Scientific Congress, which is scheduled to be held in Hawaii in August 1961. Mr. Coolidge called the attention of key officials of the Government to the fact that the cost of transportation to Hawaii may be prohibitive for a number of scientists from Asian countries and that it would be very useful if transport could be provided. Mr. Irwin agreed to look into the possibilities and to report his findings to the Board.


ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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